

## German

This list contains German words with their English translations. The words included here are those that you are likely to find in genealogical sources. If the word you are looking for is not on this list, please consult a German-English dictionary. (See the "Additional Resources" section on page 2.) Latin words are often found in German records, and a few are included in this list. See the *Latin Word List* (34077).

German is spoken in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Records written in German may be found in these countries and also in parts of Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Hungary, and wherever German people settled. There are several different dialects in the German language. For example, in the province of Westphalia and other areas of Germany that border the Netherlands, you may notice words that are closely related to Dutch words. You may find the Dutch word list useful when working with these records.

In addition, German is found in some early records of the United States, such as in Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and other states where Germans lived.

### LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

German words for persons, places, and things (nouns) are always capitalized. All nouns are classified as masculine, feminine, or neuter. This classification is called *gender*. The gender of a noun is indicated by *der* (masculine), *die* (feminine), and *das* (neuter), which translates as "the." Word endings may vary, depending on the way the words are used in the sentence.

### Variant Forms of Words

In German, as in English, the forms of some words will vary according to how they are used in the sentence. *Who—whose—whom* or *marry—marries—married* are examples of words in English with variant forms. In German, the form of many words can change greatly. This word list gives the standard form of each German word. As you read German records, you will need to be aware that some words vary with usage.

The endings of words in a document may differ from those on this list. For example, the document may use the word *junger*, but you will find it in this word list as *jung*. In addition, the suffixes *-chen* and *-lein* are

often added to words to indicate "little." Therefore, the word *Söhnchen* means "little or young son," and *Töchterlein* means "little or young daughter."

Adjectives describe nouns and must have the proper masculine, feminine, or neuter endings. For example, in German you would say "*junger Mann*" (young man) or "*junges Mädchen*" (young maiden) if man and maiden are the subjects of a sentence. Adjective endings can change depending on usage and gender.

Plural words are usually formed by adding *-er*, *-en*, or *-e*. Thus the word *Kind* becomes *Kinder*, *Frau* becomes *Frauen*, and *Aufgebot* becomes *Aufgebote*. Plurality may also change the vowel slightly. For example, *Mann* becomes *Männer*.

In German, many words are formed by joining two or more words. Very few of these compound words are included in this list. You will need to look up each part of the word separately. For example, *Geburtstag* is a combination of two words, *Geburt* (birth) and *Tag* (day).

### Alphabetical Order

Written German uses several letters in addition to the 26 letters used in the English alphabet. These are *Ä* (*ä*), *Ö* (*ö*), *Ü* (*ü*), and *ß*. These letters will be alphabetized in this publication as though they were *a*, *o*, *u*, and *ss*. However, many dictionaries and gazetteers will alphabetize these characters as if they were *ae*, *oe*, *ue*, and *ss*.

### Spelling

Because spelling rules were not standardized in earlier centuries, spelling variations are common. Local dialect often affects the spelling in genealogical records. In German records, the following letters are sometimes used interchangeably:

<i>p</i> used for	<i>b</i>	<i>a</i> used for	<i>e</i>
<i>t</i> used for	<i>d</i> or <i>dt</i>	<i>s</i> used for	<i>z</i>
<i>ck</i> used for	<i>k</i>	<i>y</i> used for	<i>i</i> or <i>j</i>
<i>v</i> used for	<i>w</i> or <i>f</i>	<i>k</i> used for	<i>g</i>
<i>tz</i> used for	<i>z</i>	<i>ig</i> used for	<i>isch</i> or <i>ich</i>
<i>t</i> used for	<i>th</i>	<i>u</i> used for	<i>i</i>

Examples:

<i>Freytag</i>	for	<i>Freitag</i>
<i>Burckhart</i>	for	<i>Burkhard</i>
<i>Waldpurga</i>	for	<i>Waldburga</i>
<i>undt</i>	for	<i>und</i>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This word list includes only words *most commonly found in genealogical sources*. For further help, use a German-English dictionary. Several German-English dictionaries are available in the Family History Library™. These are in the European collection. The call numbers begin with 433.21.

Particularly helpful dictionaries include:

*Langenscheidt New Muret-Sanders Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English and German Languages*. Berlin: Langenscheidt, 1969, 1974 (FHL book 433.21 Sp83n).

*The New Cassell's German Dictionary, German-English, English-German*. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, Inc., 1971 (FHL book 433.211 C272 1971).

Additional dictionaries are listed in the subject section of the Family History Library Catalog™ under GERMAN LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES or in the locality section under GERMANY - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES.

## KEY WORDS

To find and use specific types of German records, you will need to know some key words in German. This section gives key genealogical terms in English and the German words with the same or similar meanings.

For example, in the first column you will find the English word *marriage*. In the second column you will find German words with meanings such as *marry, marriage, wedding, wedlock, unite, joined*, and other words used in German records to indicate marriage.

English	German
birth	Geburten, Geburtsregister, Geborene, geboren
burial	Beerdigungen, begraben, Begräbnisse, bestattet, beerdigt
Catholic	katholisch
child	Kind, Kinder
christening	Taufe, Taufen, Getaufte
confirmations	Konfirmationen, Firmungen
civil registry	Standesamt
death	Tote, Tod, sterben, starb, verstorben, gestorben, Sterbefall
father	Vater
husband	Mann, Ehemann, Gatte
index	Verzeichnis, Register
Jewish	jüdisch, Jude(n), israelitisch

English  
marriage banns

marriage

month

mother

name, given

name, surname

parents

parish

Protestant

Reformed

wife

year

German

Proklamationen,

Aufgebote,

Verkündigungen

Heiraten, Trauungen,

Getraute, Ehe,

Kopulation, kopulieren,

verheiratet,

Verehelichungen,

Eheschliessungen

Monat

Mutter

Vorname, Name

Zuname, Familienname,

Geschlechtsname, Name

Eltern

Pfarrei, Kirchspiel,

Gemeinde

evangelisch, lutherisch,

Protestant

reformiert

Frau, Ehegattin, Weib,

Ehefrau, Hausfrau,

Gattin

Jahr

## GENERAL WORD LIST

This general word list includes words commonly seen in genealogical sources. Numbers, months, and days of the week are listed both here and in separate sections that follow this list.

In this list, optional versions of German words or variable endings are given in parentheses. Parentheses in the English column clarify the definition.

In German, some words have both a male and female form, such as:

*Burger*  
*Bürgerin*

male citizen  
female citizen

This word list usually gives only the male form. You may find the female forms in most records.

German

English

A

ab

Abend

abends

aber

abgestorben

absterben

acht

achte

achtundzwanzigste

achtzehn

achtzehnhundert

achtzehnte

from, since

evening

in the evening

but

deceased

to die, to die off

eight

eighth

twenty-eighth

eighteen

eighteen hundred

eighteenth

German	English
achtzig	eighty
achtzigste	eightieth
Ackermann	farmer
Adel	gentry, nobleman
a.D. = außer Dienst	formerly employed, retired
adoptiert	adopted
Ahnen	ancestors
Ahnentafel	pedigree chart
Akten	documents
alle	all
allhier	in this place
alt	old
Altbürger	full citizen
Alter	age
Altersschwäche	weakness of old age
ältest	eldest
alt-katholisch	old Catholic
Amman	bailiff, magistrate
Amt	office, district
Anbauer	peasant
andere	other, next
Angeber	informant
angeblich	alleged, assumed
Anmerkungen	remarks
Anspanner	farmer
apostolisch	Apostolic
April	April
Arbeiter	laborer, worker
Archiv	archive
arm	poor
Armut	poverty
Arzt	physician
auch	also, too
auf	on, upon, at
aufbieten	post banns
Aufenthaltserlaubnis	residence permit
Aufenthaltsort	residence
Aufgebot	publication of banns
August	August
aus	from, out of
außen	outside
äußere	outside, outward, external
außerehelich	illegitimate
Auswanderer	emigrant
Auswanderung	emigration
Auszehrung	consumption or emaciation (especially from TB)
Auszug	extract

## B

Bäcker	baker
Bad	spa, resort
Badeort	spa, health resort
Band	volume
Baptist	Baptist
Baron	baron
Bauer	farmer, peasant

German	English
Bayern	Bavaria
Bd. = Band	volume
Beamter	official, registrar
Beck(er)	baker
beerdigt	buried
Beerdigung	burial, interment
beglaubigt	certified, attested
begraben	buried
Begräbnis	burial
Beichte	confession
beide	both
Beilage	supplement
Bekannte(r)	acquaintance
Bekehrung	conversion
Belege	proof, documentation
Bemerkungen	remarks
Berg	hill, mountain
Bergmann	miner
Beruf	occupation, profession
Beschreibung	description
Besitzer	possessor, proprietor, owner
bestätigt	confirmed, verified
bestattet	buried
bettlägerig	bedridden
Bettler	beggar
Bevölkerungsregister	population register
bevorstehend	previously mentioned
Bezirk	district
Biographie	biography
Bischof	bishop
Bistum	diocese
Blattern	smallpox
blutend	bleeding
Blütenmonat	May
Blutsverwandschaft	blood relationship
Böhmen	Bohemia
Bootsmann	bargeman, boatman
Böttcher	cooper, barrel maker
Brauer	brewer
Bräune	diphtheria
Braut	bride
Bräutigam	bridegroom
Brücke	bridge
Bruder	brother
Bub	boy
Buch	book
Büdner	cottager
Burg	castle, fortress
Bürger	burgher, citizen, citizens
Bürgerbuch	citizen register
Bürgermeister	mayor
Büttner	cooper, barrel maker

## C

ca. = circa	about
Chirurg	surgeon

German	English
Christmonat	December
Colonist	settler, tenant farmer
copulieren	to marry

## D

d. = der, dem, des, die, das	the
Dachdecker	roofer
dänisch	Danish
das	the
daselbst	residing in this place
Datum	date
Dekanat	deanery
dem, den	the
der	the, of the
derselbe	the same
des	of the
deutsch	German
Deutschland	Germany
Dezember	December
die	the
Diener	servant
Dienst	service, employment
Dienstag	Tuesday
Dienstmagd	servant girl
dieser	this, these
Domäne	domain
Donnerstag	Thursday
Dorf	village
dort	there
drei	three
dreißig	thirty
dreißigste	thirtieth
dreiundzwanzigste	twenty-third
dreizehn	thirteen
dreizehnte	thirteenth
dritte	third
Duplikat	duplicate record
durch	through
Durchfall	diarrhea

## E

ebenda	at the same place
Ehe	marriage
Ehebrecher	adulterer
Ehebruch	adultery
Ehefrau	wife, housewife
Ehehindernis	hinderance to marriage
ehel. = ehelich	legitimate
eheleiblich	legitimate
Eheleute	married couple
ehelich	legitimate
ehemals	formerly
Ehemann	husband
Ehescheidung	divorce
Eheschließung	marriage
Ehestand	married state
Eheverkündigungen	marriage banns

German	English
Eheversprechen,	betrothal, engagement
Eheverspruch	
Eidam (Eidmann)	son-in-law
Eigentümer	proprietor
ein, eine	a, one, an
Einbürgerung	naturalization
Einlieger	landless farm laborer
eins	one
Einsender	informant, declarant
eintausendachthundert	eighteen hundred
eintausendfünfhundert	fifteen hundred
eintausendneunhundert	nineteen hundred
eintausendsechshundert	sixteen hundred
eintausendsiebenhundert	seventeen hundred
einunddreissig	thirty-one
einunddreissigste	thirty-first
einundzwanzigste	twenty-first
Einwanderer	immigrant
Einwanderung	immigration
Einwilligung	permission
Einwohner	inhabitant
einzig	only
Eiterbeule	abscess
elf	eleven
elfte	eleventh
Eltern	parents
Enkel	grandson
Enkelin	granddaughter
Enkelkind	grandchild
eod(em)	the same
Epilepsie	epilepsy
er	he
Erbschaft	inheritance
erhalten	received, receive
erklärt	declared
Erlassung	dispensation, permission
Ermächtigung	authorization
Ernting	August
errechnet	approximated, calculated
erschien	appeared
erste	first
erstgeboren	firstborn
ertrank, ertrunken	drowned
erzeugt	begat
es	it
evangelisch	evangelical

## F

Fabrikant	manufacturer
Familie	family
Familienbuch	family register
Familienforschung	genealogical research
Familienregister	family register
Färber	dyer
Faßbinder	cooper, barrel maker
Fäule	cancer
Februar	February

German	English
Fehlgeburt	miscarriage
Festtag	feast day, festival day, holy day
Festung	fortress
Fieber	fever
Findling	foundling
Firmung	confirmation
Fischer	fisher
Fl. = Florin	standard monetary unit
Flecken	hamlet, <i>also</i> measles or spots
Fleckfieber	spotted fever, typhus
Fleischer	butcher
Fleischhauer	butcher
Flüchtling	refugee, deserter
Fluß	river
folgende	following, next
Forst	forest
Förster	forester
Fraïsen	convulsions, epilepsy, seizures, spasms
Frankreich	France
Frau	Mrs., wife, woman
Fräulein	Miss, unmarried woman
Freibauer	farmer who owns his own land
Freiherr	baron
Freitag	Friday
fremd	foreign, strange
Freund	friend
Friedhof	cemetery
früh	early (A.M.)
früher	former, formerly
fünf	five
fünfte	fifth
fünfundzwanzigste	twenty-fifth
fünfzehn	fifteen
fünfzehnhundert	fifteen hundred
fünfzehnte	fifteenth
fünfzig	fifty
fünfzigste	fiftieth
für	for
Fürst	count
Fürstentum	principality

## G

Gärtner	gardener
Gastwirt	innkeeper
Gatte	husband
Gattin	wife
geb. = geboren	born, maiden name
geben, gab	given, gave
Gebiet	region, area, zone
geboren	born, maiden name
Gebühren	fees
Geburt	birth
Geburtsort	place of birth

German	English
Geburtsschein	birth certificate
Geburtsurkunde	birth certificate
gegen	against, towards
geheiratet	married
gehört	belongs (to)
Geistliche(r)	clergyman
Gelbsucht	jaundice
Geld	money
Gemahl(in)	spouse, husband, wife
Gemeinde	community, municipality, parish, town
Gemeindemann	village official, village resident
Gemeindsmann	citizen with full rights
gemelli	twins
genannt	named, alias, called
Genealogie	genealogy
Gerber	tanner
Gericht	court
Gerichtsmann	juryman
Gerichtsschreiber	court clerk
Gerichtsverwandter	member of the judicial court
gesagt	said, stated
Geschichte	history
geschieden	divorced
Geschlecht	gender, sex, lineage
Geschlechterbücher	lineage books
Geschlechtsname	surname
Geschwister	siblings, brothers and sisters
Geschwulst	swelling, tumor
Geselle	journeyman
Gesellschaft	society, group
Gesetz	law
gesetzlich	legal
gest. = gestorben	died
gestern	yesterday
gestorben	died
get. = getauft	baptized, christened
Getaufte	person who was baptized
getr. = getraut	married
Getraute	married couple
Gevatter	godfather
Gewerbe	trade, occupation
Gicht	gout, arthritis
Gilde	guild
Glaube	belief, faith
Glauben	religious affiliation
gleich	same, alike, similar, right away
Graf	count (nobleman), earl
Grafschaft	county
Grenze	border
groß	big, great, large
Großeltern	grandparents
großjährig	of age
Großmutter	grandmother

German	English
Großneffe	great-nephew
Großnichte	great-niece
Großvater	grandfather
Grundbuch	land register
Gulden	standard monetary unit, florin
Gut	property, estate
gut	good

## H

haben	to have
halb	half
halb drei	half three = 2:30 (time)
halb eins	half one = 12:30 (time)
halb zwei	half two = 1:30 (time)
Händler	trader, merchant, peddler
Hartung	January
Haupt-	chief, main
Haus	house
Hausfrau	housewife
Häusler	cottager
Hausmädchen	housemaid
Hebamme	midwife
Heilquelle	spa, bath
Heimat	home, native place, homeland
Heimatschein	domicile certificate
Heimatsort	place of birth, home town
Heirat	marriage
heiraten	to marry
Heiratsantrag	marriage intentions
Heiratsbelege	marriage supplements
Heiratskontrakt	marriage contracts
Heiratsprotokolle	marriage records
Heiratsschein	marriage certificate
heißt	is named
Hektar	hectare (10,000 square meters or 2.47 U.S. acres)
Heraldik	heraldry
Herkunftsart	place of origin
Herr	Mister, Lord, lord
Herrschaft	estate, dominion
Herzog	duke
Herzogtum	duchy
Hessische	Hessian
Heuerling	dayworker, hireling
Heuert, Heumonat	July
heute	today
hier	here
hiesiger Ort	this place
Hinterbliebene	survivors
hinterlassen	surviving, left behind
Hirt	herdsman
hitziges Fieber	burning fever, high fever
hoch	high
Hochzeit	wedding

German	English
Hof	courtyard, farm, yard, estate
Hofprediger	chaplain
Holländer	Dutchman, dairykeeper
Hornung	February
Hüfner	farmer
Hufschmied	blacksmith
Hügel	hill
hundert	hundred
Hurenkind	illegitimate child
Husten	cough

## I

ihr	their, her
im	in the
immer	always
in	in
Inhalt	content
innerhalb	inside of
Innung	guild
Instmann	tenant farmer
ist	is

## J

Jäger	hunter
Jahr	year
Jahrestag	anniversary
Jahreszeit	season
Jahrhundert	century
jährlich	annual, yearly
Jahrzehnt	decade
Jänner	January
Januar	January
jeder (jede, jedes)	each, every
Jgfr. = Jungfrau, Jungfer	maiden, virgin, unmarried woman
jüdisch	Jewish
Jugend	youth, adolescence
Juli	July
Julmonat	December
jung	young
Junge	boy, a youth
Junggeselle	bachelor
Jüngling	bachelor, young man
Juni	June

## K

Kantor	choirmaster, organist
Karte	map
Kartei	card index
Käthner	cottager
katholisch	Catholic
kaufen	to buy
Kaufmann	merchant
kein	no, none
Keuchhusten	whooping cough

German	English
Kiefer	cooper, barrel maker
Kind	baby, child
Kindbettfieber	childbed fever
Kinder	children
Kirche	church
Kirchenältester	churchwarden, church elder, vestryman
Kirchenbuch	parish register
Kirchengemeinde	parish
Kirchenpfleger	churchwarden
Kirchenrodel	parish register
Kirchensprengel	parish
Kirchenvorsteher	churchwarden
kirchlich	pertaining to church
Kirchrat	member of a church council
Kirchspiel	parish
K.K. = kaiserlich königlich	royal imperial
klein	little, small
Knabe	boy
Knecht	servant, farmhand
Kommunikant	communicant
Kommunion	communion
Konfirmation	confirmation
König	king
königlich	royal
Königreich	kingdom
Kopulation	marriage
kopulieren	to marry
Kossät, Kossath	cottager
Kötter (Kötner)	small farmer, cottager
Krämer	grocer, small retailer
Krämpfe	cramps, convulsions
Krankheit	disease, sickness
Krebs	cancer
Kreis	county, district
Krieg	war
Küfer	cooper, barrel maker
Kuhhirte	cowherd
Kupferschmied	coppersmith
Kurort	spa, bath
Kusine	female cousin
Küster	sexton

## L

Land	land, country
Landarbeiter	farmhand
Landkarte	map
Landwirt	farmer
lassen	to let, leave, allow
lebendig	living
ledig	single, unmarried
legitimiert	made legitimate, legitimized
Lehrer	teacher
Lehrling	apprentice

German	English
Leiche	corpse, body
Leichenpredigt	funeral sermon
Leinenweber	linen weaver
Lenz	spring (season)
letzte Ölung	last rites, extreme unction
letzte Salbung	last rites, extreme unction
Letzter	latter, last
letzter Wille	last will
links	left
Lungenentzündung	pneumonia
Lungenschwindsucht	consumption, tuberculosis
lutherisch	Lutheran

## M

Mädchen, Mädel	girl
Magd	maiden, maid, servant girl
Mägdlein	girl
Mai	May
Maler	painter
Mann	husband, man
männlich	male
Markt	market
März	March
Masern	measles
Matrikel	register
Maurer	mason, bricklayer
Meister	master
Mennoniten	Mennonites
Metzger	butcher
Militär	military
minderjährig	underaged, minor
mit	with, via, by
Mitglied	member
Mittag	midday
mittags	at noon
Mitternacht	midnight
Mittwoch	Wednesday
Monat	month
Montag	Monday
Morgen	morning, tomorrow
Morgen (morgen)	measure of land, 0.6 to 0.9 acres
morgens	in the morning
Mühle	mill
mündlich	verbal, verbally
Mutter	mother

## N

nach	to, after, according to
Nachbar	neighbor
Nachbarschaft	neighborhood
nachgelassen	surviving
Nachlaß	estate, inheritance
Nachmittag	afternoon
nachmittags	in the afternoon
nächst(e)	next
Nacht	night

German	English
Näherin	seamstress
Name	name
nat. = natus, nata	born
neben	next to
Nebenfrau	concubine
Neffe	nephew
Nervenfieber	nervous fever, typhus
neu	new
neun	nine
neunte	ninth
neunundzwanzigte	twenty-ninth
neunzehn	nineteen
neunzehnhundert	nineteen hundred
neunzehnte	nineteenth
neunzig	ninety
neunzigste	ninetieth
nicht	not
Nichte	niece
nichts	nothing
nie	never
nieder	lower
Niederländisch	Dutch
N.N. = nomen nescio	name not known
noch	still
noch lebende	still living, surviving
noch nicht	not yet
Nord	north
Notizen	notices, miscellaneous records
Nottaufe	emergency baptism
November	November
Nummer	number
nur	only

## O

ober	upper, over
ober-	chief, head
oder	or
öffentlich	publish, make known
bekanntmachen	publicly
oft	often
Oheim	uncle
ohne	without
Oktober	October
Onkel	uncle
Ort	place, town
Ortslexikon	gazetteer
Osten	east
Osteren	April
Ostermonat	April
Ostern	Easter
Österreich	Austria
österreichisch	Austrian

## P

Pächter	leaseholder
Pate	godfather

German	English
Paten	godparents
Pest	plague
Pfalz	Palatinate
Pfarramt	parish office
Pfarrbuch	parish register
Pfarrei	parish
Pfarrer	parish minister, pastor
Pflegekind	foster child
Pflegesohn	foster son
Pflege Tochter	foster daughter
Platz	place (location)
Pocken	pox, smallpox
Polen	Poland
polnisch	Polish
preußisch	Prussian
Priester	priest
Prinz	prince
Prinzessin	princess
protestantisch	Protestant
Provinz	province
provinzial	provincial

## R

Rathaus	city hall, town hall
Ratsherr	alderman
Ratsmann	councilman, town councilor
Rechnung	account, bill
rechtgläubig	orthodox
reformiert	reformed
Regierungsbezirk	administrative area
Register	register
Reich	empire, kingdom
relicta	widow
relictus	widower
Religion	religion
ren. = renatus, renata	baptized, christened
Rentner	retired person
Rheuma	rheumatism
Richter	judge
Rodel	register
römisch katholisch	Roman Catholic
rot	red
Rotgerber	tanner
Ruhestand	retirement
Ruhr	dysentery
russisch	Russian
Rußland	Russia

## S

S. = Seite	page
s. = siehe	see the following reference
Sachsen	Saxony
Salbung	anointing
Samstag	Saturday
Satertag	Saturday
Sattler	saddler, leather worker



German	English
Schäfer	shepherd
Scharlachfieber	scarlet fever
Scheidung	September
Scheidung	divorce
Schein	certificate
Schenkungen	donations
Schlaganfall	stroke, seizure
Schlagfluß	stroke
Schloß	castle
Schlosser	locksmith
Schmied	smith
Schneider	tailor
Schreiber	scribe, clerk
Schreiner	cabinetmaker, joiner
Schuhmacher	shoemaker, cobbler
Schule	school
Schullehrer	schoolteacher
Schultheiß (Schulze)	village mayor, head of town council
Schuster	shoemaker, cobbler
Schwäche	weakness
Schwager	brother-in-law
Schwägerin	sister-in-law
schwanger	pregnant
schwarz	black
Schweiz	Switzerland
Schweizer	Swiss; <i>also</i> a dairyman
Schwester	sister
Schwiegermutter	mother-in-law
Schwiegersohn	son-in-law
Schwiegertochter	daughter-in-law
Schwiegervater	father-in-law
Schwindsucht	consumption
S.d. = Sohn des, der	son of
sechs	six
sechste	sixth
sechszwanzig	twenty-six
sechszwanzigste	twenty-sixth
sechzhundert	sixteen hundred
sechzehn	sixteen
sechzehnte	sixteenth
sechzig	sixty
sechzigste	sixtieth
See	lake
Seelen	souls
Seelenregister	church membership list
Seemann	sailor
Seifensieder	soap maker
Seiler	rope maker
sein	to be; his
seit	since
Seite	page
selige	(the) late, blessed
September	September
sich	himself, herself, itself
sie	she, they
Sie	you
sieben	seven

German	English
siebente	seventh
siebenundzwanzigste	twenty-seventh
siebte	seventh
siebzehn	seventeen
siebzhnhundert	seventeen hundred
siebzehnte	seventeenth
siebzig	seventy
siebzigste	seventieth
Sieder	soap maker
siehe	see
Sigrist	sexton
sind	are
so	as, so, thus, such
Sohn	son
Söhnlein (Söhnchen)	young son
Soldat	soldier
sollen	should
Sonnabend	Saturday
Sonntag	Sunday
spät	late (P.M.)
spur. = spurius, spuria	illegitimate
Staat	state
Staatsangehörigkeit	citizenship, nationality
Staatsarchiv	state archives
Stadt	city
Stammbaum	family tree, pedigree
Stand	occupation, status, condition
Standesamt	civil registrar's office
starb	died
stellen	place, put, impose
Stellmacher	wheelwright
Sterbefälle	deaths
sterben	to die
Steuer	tax
Stickfluß	asthma
Stiefbruder	half brother, stepbrother
Stiefkind	stepchild
Stiefmutter	stepmother
Stiefschwester	half sister, stepsister
Stiefvater	stepfather
Stillgeburt	stillbirth
Straße	street
Stunde	hour
Sucht	sickness, mania, rage
Süden	south
S.v. = Sohn von	son of

## T

T.d. = Tochter des, der	daughter of
T.v. = Tochter von	daughter of
Tabelle	index, table
Tag	day
Tagelöhner	day laborer
Tagner	day laborer
Tal	valley
Tante	aunt

German	English
Taufe	baptism
taufen	to baptize
Taufpaten	godparents
Taufschein	baptismal certificate
tausend	thousand
Testament	will
Tischler	cabinetmaker, furniture maker
Tochter	daughter
Töchterchen	young daughter
Töchterlein	young daughter
Tochtermann	son-in-law
Tod	death
Todesart	manner of death
Töpfer	potter
tot	dead
Totengräber	grave digger
totgeboren	stillborn
Trauung	marriage
Trennung	separation, divorce
tschechisch	Czech
Tschechoslowakai	Czechoslovakia
Tuberkulose	tuberculosis
Tuchmacher	cloth maker, draper
Tumor	tumor

## U

über	about, concerning, over
u.d. = und des, und der	and of
Uhr	o'clock, clock, watch
um	at, about, around, concerning
unbekannt	unknown
und	and
und der	and of
und des	and of
unehelich	illegitimate
ungarisch	Hungarian
Ungarn	Hungary
ungefähr	about, circa, approximately
uns	us
unter	under, lower
Unterrichter	judge
Unterschrieben	signed
Unterschrift	signature
Unterzeichnete	the undersigned
unverheiratet	unmarried
Urenkelkind	great-grandchild
Urgroßmutter	great-grandmother
Urgroßvater	great-grandfather
Urkunde	record, document
Ururgroßmutter	great-great-grandmother
Ururgroßvater	great-great-grandfather
ux. = uxor	wife

## V

Vater	father
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German	English
verehelicht	married
Verehelichung	marriage
vergangen	past
vergraben	buried
verh. = verheiratet	married
Verkäufer	seller, vendor
verl. = verlobt	engaged
verlebte	deceased
verloben, sich	to become engaged
Verlobte	fiancée
Verlobter	fiancé
Verlobung	betrothal, engagement
Vermieter	landlord, lessor
Vermögen	estate, assets
Verpächter	landlord, lessor
verrichtet	performed
verschiedene	various
Verstopfung	constipation
verstorben	deceased, defunct
Verstorbene	the deceased
Verwaltung	administration
Verwandten	relatives
Verwandtschaft	relationship
verwitwet	widowed
Verzeichnis	register, list, index
Vetter	male cousin
vid. = viduus, vidua	widower, widow
vielleicht	perhaps, maybe
vier	four
vierte	fourth
vierundzwanzigste	twenty-fourth
vierzehn	fourteen
vierzehnte	fourteenth
vierzig	forty
vierzigste	fortieth
Vo(i)gt	steward, overseer
Volkszählung	census
volljährig	of age, of legal age
vollzogen	performed
von	of, from, by
vor	before; ago
vorherig	previous, preceding
vorheriger Tag	the previous day
vorläufig	for the time being
vormals	formerly
Vormittags	in the morning
Vormund	guardian
Vorname	given name
Vorstadt	suburbs, outskirts of town

## W

Wagner	cartwright
Waise	orphan
Wald	forest, woods
wann	when
Wappen	coat of arms
Wappenkunde	heraldry

German	English
war	was
waren	were
warum	why
was	what
Wassersucht	dropsy, edema
Weber	weaver
Weduwe	widow
wegen	because of
Wehmutter	midwife
Weib	wife, woman
weiblich	female
weiland	deceased
Weiland	the deceased
Weiler	hamlet
weiß	white
Weißgerber	tanner
welche	which
wer	who
werden	to become
Wēst	west
weyland	deceased
wie	how
Windpocken	chicken pox
Wintermonat	November
Wirt(h)	innkeeper
Wittib	widow
Wittiber	widower
Witwe	widow
Witwer	widower
wo	where
Woche	week
Wochenbett	childbed
woher	from where
wohnen	to live, residing
Wohnort	place of residence
Wohnplatz	place of residence
Wohnung	domicile, residence
wollen	to want
Wonnemonat	May
Wörterbuch	dictionary
wurde geboren	was born
wurde getauft	was baptized
würdig	worthy
Wwe. = Witwe	widow
Wwer. = Witwer	widower

## X

Xber (Xbris)	December
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## Z

zählen	to count
Zahnkrämpfe	teething
Zahnung	teething
zehn	ten
Zehnt(en)buch	tithing book
zehnte	tenth
Zehnten	tithes

German	English
zehrendes Fieber	consumptive fever
Zehrung	consumption
Zeit	time
Zeuge	witness
Ziegler	brick maker
Zimmermann	carpenter
Zivilstandsamt	civil registrar's office
Zöllner	publican, tax collector
zu Hause	at home
Zukunft	future
Zuname	surname, last name
zusammen	together
zwanzig	twenty
zwanzigste	twentieth
zwei	two
zweihundert	two hundred
zweitausend	two thousand
zweite	second
zweiundzwanzigste	twenty-second
Zwilling(e)	twin, twins
zwischen	between
zwölf	twelve
Zwölfer	member of a council
zwölfte	twelfth

## NUMBERS

In some genealogical records, numbers are spelled out. This is especially true of dates. The following list gives the cardinal (1, 2, 3) and the ordinal (1st, 2nd, 3rd) versions of each number. Days of the month are written in ordinal form. Ordinal forms may have other endings, for example: *erste*, *ersten*.

Cardinal	Ordinal
0 null	
1 eins	1st erste
2 zwei	2nd zweite, zweyte
3 drei	3rd dritte
4 vier	4th vierte
5 fünf	5th fünfte
6 sechs	6th sechste
7 sieben	7th siebte, siebente
8 acht	8th achte
9 neun	9th neunte
10 zehn	10th zehnte
11 elf	11th elfte
12 zwölf	12th zwölfte
13 dreizehn	13th dreizehnte
14 vierzehn	14th vierzehnte
15 fünfzehn	15th fünfzehnte
16 sechzehn	16th sechzehnte
17 siebzehn	17th siebzehnte
18 achtzehn	18th achtzehnte
19 neunzehn	19th neunzehnte
20 zwanzig	20th zwanzigste
21 einundzwanzig	21st einundzwanzigste

22	zweiundzwanzig	22nd	zweiundzwanzigste
23	dreiundzwanzig	23rd	dreiundzwanzigste
24	vierundzwanzig	24th	vierundzwanzigste
25	fünfundzwanzig	25th	fünfundzwanzigste
26	sechszundzwanzig	26th	sechszundzwanzigste
27	siebenundzwanzig	27th	siebenundzwanzigste
28	achtundzwanzig	28th	achtundzwanzigste
29	neunundzwanzig	29th	neunundzwanzigste
30	dreißig	30th	dreißigste
31	einunddreißig	31st	einunddreißigste
40	vierzig	40th	vierzigste
50	fünfzig	50th	fünfzigste
60	sechzig	60th	sechzigste
70	siebzig	70th	siebzigste
80	achtzig	80th	achtzigste
90	neunzig	90th	neunzigste
100	hundert	100th	hunderste
200	zweihundert	200th	zwei hunderste
1000	tausend	1000th	tausendste

## DATES AND TIME

In German records, dates are often written out. For example:

*Freitag den vierzehnten Februar achtzehnhundert sechs und dreißig* [Friday, the 14th of February, eighteen hundred six and thirty (1836)].

To understand German dates, use the following lists as well as the preceding "Numbers" section.

### Months

English	German
January	Januar, Jänner, Hartung, Jenner
February	Februar, Hornung
March	März, Frühlingsmonat
April	April, Ostermonat, Osteren
May	Mai, Wonnemonat, Blütemonat
June	Juni, Brachmonat
July	Juli, Heuert, Heumonat, Heuet
August	August, Erntemonat, Hitzmonat
September	September, Fruchtmomat, Herbstmonat, Herpsten, 7ber, 7bris
October	Oktober, Weinmonat, 8ber, 8bris
November	November, Wintermonat, 9ber, 9bris
December	Dezember, Christmonat, 10ber, 10bris, Xber, Xbris

### Days of the Week

English	German
Sunday	Sonntag
Monday	Montag
Tuesday	Dienstag
Wednesday	Mittwoch
Thursday	Donnerstag
Friday	Freitag
Saturday	Samstag, Sonnabend

## Times of the Day

German birth and death records often indicated the exact time of day when the birth or death occurred. This is usually written out.

German	English
ein Uhr	one (o'clock)
zwei Uhr	two (o'clock)
drei Uhr	three (o'clock)
halb eins	half one = 12:30
halb zwei	half two = 1:30
halbe Stunde	half hour
Stunde	hour

German	English
früh	early (A.M.)
spät	late (P.M.)
morgens	in the morning
vormittags	in the forenoon
mittags	at noon
nachmittags	in the afternoon
abends	in the evening
mitternachts	at midnight

## SYMBOLS

The following symbols are commonly used in German genealogical sources.

Symbol	Meaning
*	born
~ or =	baptized, christened
oo	married
+ or †	died
[ ]	buried
(*)	born illegitimately
o-o	common law marriage, illegitimate
o o	divorced
X	killed in action
+X	died of battle wounds
†*	stillborn

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Third edition April 1997. English approval: 4/97

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